

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 772

By Roberts

A RESOLUTION to recognize and applaud the participation of Jo Byrns Elementary School in the Tennessee Valley Authority Green Schools Program.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pride in recognizing the creative, innovative, and efficacious ways in which Tennesseans of all ages embrace causes so dear and relevant to our daily existence and our continued well-being as a healthy and productive society; and

WHEREAS, conservation and efficient utilization of natural resources are personal, as well as civic, responsibilities which can be well served by public and private partnerships that rise to the duty of teaching and training our children in the ways of judicious energy usage and the imperative for sustenance of our energy-giving resources for all future generations to come; and

WHEREAS, mission-driven to impart knowledge to the public and encourage the application of good stewardship practices concerning our energy-rich resources, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has engaged the student population, faculty, and staff at Jo Byrns Elementary School in Robertson County in its Green Schools Program, giving them the opportunity to learn and practice professional skills in the field of energy conservation; and

WHEREAS, the Green Schools Program is a comprehensive program for K-12 schools that uses energy-based lessons correlated to state standards to enhance project-based, real-world learning, encourage energy-conserving habits, save school districts money on energy costs, and introduce students to careers in energy and energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, working in concert with TVA and the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, the school's populace is experiencing hands-on learning by using integrated activities throughout all aspects of scholastic daily life. At its most basic level, the Green

Schools Program influences building users, starting with the students, who, in turn, become energy educators and efficiency advocates, bringing the energy efficiency and conservation message from their schools into their homes and community; and

WHEREAS, at well past the midway point in the two-year program, the awareness that has been fostered and the subsequent changes in utilization behaviors that have come about have produced demonstrable positive results. During the time period of August 2010 through February 2012, electricity usage at Jo Byrns Elementary School declined by 239,897 kilowatt-hours, which represents a 17.5% decrease and a \$26,389 cost savings for the school district; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of the Green Schools Program at Jo Byrns Elementary School reach beyond the walls of the building itself and into individual homes of the students and the community at large. Students are internalizing constructive beliefs about energy efficiency even as they are externalizing energy-conserving practices in their own lives while also imploring their families to modify usage habits and focus on optimal energy stewardship; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly extols the benefits realized by the participation of Jo Byrns Elementary School in the TVA Green Schools Program, recognizing that such participation has taken students out of a passive relationship with their immediate environment and is making them acutely aware of their surroundings and the impact they have on them and, most importantly, is giving them the power to effect changes for the good of this State, its citizens, and the environment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize the participation of Jo Byrns Elementary School in the TVA Green Schools Program and applaud the exemplary success achieved by the students, faculty, and staff in mastering critical lessons in the conservation and efficient use of energy in our daily lives. We extend to them all our best wishes for a successful completion of the Green Schools Program and the productive application of learning there from for many years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.